# U.S. Endorses U.N. Birth Control Aid

*United Nations, N.Y.* In a major policy statement, the United States this week strongly endorsed an 11-nation proposal to provide birth control assistance through the U.N.

The statement, delivered by Richard N. Gardner, deputy assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, was free of the hedging that has heretofore marked administration pronouncements on the politically sensitive issue of birth control. (Copies may be obtained without charge by requesting press release 4119 from the U.S. Mission to the U.N., 799 U.N. Plaza, New York 17, N.Y.)

Gardner emphasized that each nation must make its own decision on its need for population planning, but he made it clear that the United States is extremely concerned over the burden that rapid population growth is imposing on the economic prospects of "certain" lesser developed countries. And he concluded that "member nations should be able to obtain from the United Nations and its agencies such assistance as they may need and request in connection with their efforts to deal with their population problems."

The resolution to which Gardner addressed himself was initiated by Sweden, and, among other things, endorsed the view "that the United Nations [should] give technical assistance, as requested by governments, for national projects and programs dealing with the problems of population." It is now under discussion by the U.N. Economic and Financial Committee. The committee's conclusions will ultimately be considered by the General Assembly, whose approval is required if the recommendations are to be incorporated in the U.N.'s technical assistance program. (The program's budget this year totals $43.7 million, of which the U.S. contributed $18.4 million.)

Gardner stated: "If the condition of the individual, and not gross statistics, is to be the measure of our progress, then it is absolutely essential that we be concerned with population trends. Population changes are one of the most important single factors determining our progress or lack of progress toward the high aims of the United Nations charter. [If] we are concerned with the quality of life we [must] be concerned with the quantity of life."

In what was apparently a gesture of deference to underdeveloped nations that have displayed a suspicious attitude toward U.S. solicitude for their population problems, Gardner said that population growth is a matter of concern for the developed as well as the underdeveloped nations. "My own country," he said, "blessed though it is with abundant resources and high living standards, recognizes the fundamental importance of the population factor in its efforts at economic and social development. . . . We have recognized that [U.S. population increase] has both advantages and disadvantages, and that we cannot fail to take account of it in seeking a better life for our citizens, specifically in planning for such things as medical care, education, conservation of natural resources, recreation areas, public housing, and urban transportation."

American policy, he said, includes the belief "that obstacles should not be placed in the way of other governments which, in the light of their own economic needs and cultural values, seek solutions to their population problems. While we will not advocate any specific policy regarding population growth to another country, we can help other countries, upon request, to find potential sources of information and assistance on ways and means of dealing with population problems."

He added that "there is a great need for additional knowledge on population matters," including "a need for more facts about alternative methods of family planning that are consistent with different economic, social, cultural and religious circumstances."

Gardner's statement, which qualifies at once as a landmark in U.S. policy toward population problems, was warmly received by the resolution's sponsors. It was generally felt that the Kennedy administration could have taken a variety of steps to avoid or muffle the issue, but instead had chosen to endorse openly a position that at best will not produce any domestic political dividends and that could very likely arouse considerable antagonism.

Although U.S. support provides a major boost for the resolution, its future is by no means assured. A number of predominantly Catholic nations have already indicated their opposition, and the communist block holds to the optimistic view that since Communism can fulfill all of man's needs, population curbs are unnecessary.—D.S.G.

# Announcements

The Smithsonian Institution has opened an exhibition entitled **"Thirty-five Years with Electrons as Waves,"** which will be on display through December in the rotunda of the Arts and Industries Building, in Washington. The display commemorates the discovery, by Clinton J. Davisson and George Paget Thomson, of electron diffraction by crystals, and the subsequent award of the Nobel prize in physics to them 10 years later.

The exhibit includes original apparatus and associated work of Davisson and Thomson, along with demonstrations of the principles of the discovery and its consequent advances, from the investigation of crucial metal surfaces to the measurement of atomic nuclei by electrons at a billion volts energy.

**Howard Simons,** science writer of the *Washington Post,* and **John L. Chapman,** editor of the Northrop Corporation's *Technical Digest,* have been selected to receive the 1962 AAAS–Westinghouse Science Writing Awards. The awards, accompanied by $1000 prizes, will be presented at the AAAS annual meeting in Philadelphia. Honorable mention citations will be presented to Walter Sullivan, science news editor of the New York *Times,* and Arthur C. Clarke, a free-lance science writer.

The awards were established in cooperation with the Westinghouse Educational Foundation to promote improved science writing and to stimulate public interest in and understanding of science.

Simons was honored for an article describing the discovery of two forms of neutrinos; Chapman's award was for a *Harper's Magazine* article titled "The Uncanny World of Plasma Physics."

### Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Some postdoctoral appointments for **fundamental research in theoretical physics** are available at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, in Livermore, Calif. Applicants for positions must be U.S. citizens. Appointments are for either 1 or 2 years, and carry an annual stipend of $12,000. Research may be done independently or in collaboration with staff theoreticians in hydro-

dynamics, thermodynamics, statistical mechanics, high-energy nuclear physics, low-energy nuclear physics, atomic physics, neutronics, plasma physics, geophysics, astrophysics, or meteorology. Deadline: *1 January*. (Sidney S. Fernbach, Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, P.O. Box 808, Livermore, Calif.)

Applications are being accepted by the University of Minnesota School of Chemistry for its training program in the **physical chemistry of radiation processes**. The program is designed to give fundamental training in the area to those whose principal work is in the biological sciences. Stipends provided will generally equal the recipient's current yearly salary. Deadline for receipt of applications: *25 January*. (Rufus Lumry, School of Chemistry, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14)

The U.S. Army Mathematics Research Center at the University of Wisconsin is offering graduate fellowships in **applied mathematics** and the related fields of mathematical analysis. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree in mathematics, physics, or engineering. Fellows will be in residence as research assistants at the center during two summer months. Basic 11-month stipends are $2500 for those with the master's degree and $2250 for those without, plus a $500 dependency allowance. Applications for renewal will be considered. Deadline for receipt of applications, transcripts of completed work, and latest grades: *1 February*. (R. E. Langer. Mathematics Research Center, U.S. Army, University of Wisconsin, Madison 6)

Predoctoral or postdoctoral fellowships in **demography** are being offered by the Population Council. Preference is given to applicants who have completed at least 1 year of study beyond the college level and who have a background in the social sciences and statistics: candidates may be of any nationality. Related studies in sociology, economics, biostatics, and other relevant fields may form part of a total program. The basic stipend is $2700, plus allowances for tuition, travel, dependents, and other expenses. Deadline: *1 February*. (Fellowship Secretary, Population Council, 230 Park Ave., New York 17)

## Scientists in the News

**Remington Kellogg** has retired as assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and director of the U.S. National Museum. He will continue at the institution as honorary research associate. **Albert C. Smith**, director of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History, will succeed him as assistant secretary; and **Frank A. Taylor**, director of the Museum of History and Technology, as National Museum director.

**Nicholas P. Fofonoff**, principal scientist in charge of marine physics at the Fisheries Research Board of Canada, has been appointed to the research staff of Woods Hole (Mass.) Oceanographic Institution.

**Lee B. Lusted**, former professor of biomedical engineering and associate professor of radiology at the University of Rochester, has joined the staff of the Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, Beaverton, Ore., as senior scientist and head of the division of biophysical sciences.

**Louis E. Wise**, senior research associate at the Institute of Paper Chemistry, Appleton, Wis., is the first recipient of the $1000 Anselme Payen award, recently established by a division of the American Chemical Society "to honor and encourage outstanding professional contributions to the science and chemical technology of cellulose and its allied products."

**David Turnbull**, of General Electric Company's research laboratory, Schenectady, N.Y., has been appointed Gordon McKay professor of applied physics at Harvard University.

**Jack A. Gerster**, professor of chemical engineering at the University of Delaware, has won the American Institute of Chemical Engineers' 1962 professional progress award of $1000.

**Paul Talalay**, professor at the University of Chicago, has been appointed the first John Jacob Abel professor of pharmacology and experimental therapeutics and director of the department at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He will succeed **Gilbert H. Mudge**, who has been named dean of the Dartmouth School of Medicine.

**Giulio Natta**, director of the Institute of Industrial Chemistry at the Polytechnic Institute of Milan (Italy), will receive the Society of Plastics Engineers' $1000 international award in plastics science and engineering for his work in the science of macromolecular chemistry and for development of new high polymers.

**Alexander P. Ramsa**, faculty member of Monmouth College electronic engineering department (New Jersey), has been appointed a scientific specialist in the new surface physics department of Erie Resistor Corporation's research and development laboratory, which is located at Erie, Pa.

**Joseph Portnoy**, assistant director of the Venereal Disease Research Laboratory at the Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga., has been appointed director of immunological research at Hynson, Westcott & Dunning, Inc., Baltimore, Md.

**F. W. Brown**, chief of the National Bureau of Standards' Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, Boulder, Colo., is on leave as science attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires. He is succeeded at NBS by **C. Gordon Little**, chief of the laboratory's upper atmosphere and space physics division.

## Recent Deaths

**Elery R. Becker**, 65; Communicable Disease Laboratory, Arizona State University, Phoenix; 18 Nov.

**Theodore H. Berlin**, 55; Rockefeller Institute, former professor of physics, Johns Hopkins University; 16 Nov.

**William C. Dash**, 37; specialist in solid-state physics, General Electric Research Laboratory, Rochester, N.Y.; 3 Nov.

**George E. R. Hervey**, 68; retired associate professor of entomology, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station; 23 Nov.

**Thomas N. Jenkins**, 70; professor emeritus of psychology, New York University; 8 Sept.

**Raymond S. Smith**, 82; professor of soil physics, University of Illinois; 28 Sept.

*Erratum*: A statement about registration at the AAAS Annual Meeting on page 1116 of the 7 Dec. issue is erroneous. A spouse or a child over 16 who does not want a separate program may register for $1. As a general rule, children under 16 are neither registered nor admitted.